

HOT FIGHT BEGINS AGAINST THE HUGE RAMAPO WATER JOB.



Bird's-eye View of the Ramapo Watershed.

The dotted line around the watershed shows the amount of territory draining into the river. Lakes are indicated by black spots. The proposed pipe line starts just above the New Jersey State line. The Ramapo River is to be blocked by a dam just below the pipe line. A short pipe line is shown connecting a smaller watershed with the main one.

Comptroller Coler to Make a Thorough Investigation—He Believes the City Should Build Its Own Plant—The Company Now Possesses Only Watershed Rights and Has No Plant.

THE Ramapo Water Company will not succeed in committing the city to a \$200,000,000 contract for a water supply without a struggle.

Those five members of the Board of Public Improvements who voted with Comptroller Coler against the approval of the contract at Wednesday's meeting are preparing a vigorous campaign against the scheme.

If necessary, it is said, President Grout, a staunch advocate of municipal ownership, who is in Europe, will be cabled to return in time for the next meeting, when the matter will doubtless be brought forward for final disposal.

He has always been opposed to the adoption of the plan whereby the Ramapo Water Company may supply water on a forty years' contract to the city at \$5,000,000 a year.

Mr. Grout's Emphatic Views. Shortly before his departure for Europe President Grout said to a Journal reporter: "I regard this Ramapo Water Company proposal as an iniquitous measure. In the first place, an effort is to be made to force New York to accept the company's contract. This is sought to be accomplished in a way which does not meet with my approval."

"The company has its champion in the Board of Public Improvements. It has champions elsewhere, who for months have been working to force the city into the scheme."

"The light which President Grout anticipated came at Wednesday's meeting of the board, when a determined effort was made to rush the Ramapo Water Company contract through."

Comptroller Coler, who had been informed only a few hours before of the intention of the friends of the scheme, indignantly opposed its adoption. After a vigorous opposition, he was supported by five other of the twelve members of the board present, the motion to approve was lost by a tie vote. Then the matter went over for two weeks to give Comptroller Coler an opportunity to make a special investigation and report.

Comptroller Coler's report of the alarming water conditions is capable of revision. Early yesterday the Comptroller was in consultation with Colonel McLean, chief engineer of the Finance Department. A plan of investigation was mapped out.

Mr. Coler Thoroughly Roused. "It is my intention to make a thorough investigation of this matter, and I shall employ the best engineers in the United States to probe it. I already have made arrangements for beginning the work."

"It is my opinion that there is no necessity for precipitately involving the city in an enterprise of such enormous magnitude."

"I am utterly opposed to binding the city in a contract with a private water company. I am sure the majority of our citizens are also opposed to such a step. New York is fully capable of enlarging its own water supply."

It behooves us as an enterprising community to own and build our own improvements. At present I may say with a degree of certainty there is no need of an additional water supply of the magnitude proposed in the report of Commissioner Dalton.

No Fear of Scarcity Here. "Engineer McLean, of the Finance Department, this morning informed me that in the Otton dam alone there was fully a month's supply, and he said there was no likelihood of any scarcity in this borough."

"Now, as far as Brooklyn is concerned, that borough needs a greater supply of water than once, but that additional supply can be procured from Long Island sources."

"There is no necessity for rushing through a contract which commits the city to paying \$5,000,000 a year for forty years to a water company owned and controlled by

private individuals. "I don't like the way in which the matter has been handled. There is something about it that doesn't strike me favorably, and it is in my power the Ramapo water project will remain just where it is."

"I am convinced that this Ramapo water scheme is the worst piece of business that ever came to light in the city. The very men who voted to pay \$5,000,000 a year for water to private companies are demanding a few months ago that the city should have its own gas and asphalt plants. I cannot understand how they can explain this change of base."

Proposes to Hold Mass Meetings. Henry P. Schmidt, former member of the Board of Education, called on Mr. Coler yesterday and offered his services to fight the proposed water grant. "The people should be aroused," he said, "I propose to get up a lot of mass meetings in Brooklyn to fight this deal."

Silas B. Dutcher, succeeded General Benjamin F. Tracy in the presidency of the Ramapo Water Company, when General Tracy resigned, a few days before his nomination for the Mayorship of Greater New York.

The company was incorporated in 1887, the incorporators being George A. Evans, of Brooklyn; Josiah G. Chase, of Cambridge, Mass.; William J. McAlpin, of Staten Island; Daniel B. Hatch and Henry Martin Blanchard, of Manhattan. Mr. Evans was then president. The authorized capital of the company was \$7,500,000, but it is said that the concern never owned even as much as a pick or shovel.

Four years ago the company went to Albany and got from a Republican Legislature the right of eminent domain in giving it the power to acquire watershed and other property by condemnation proceedings. No restriction in this State was placed upon the company.

Besides this very valuable rights and some options on land amounting to half a million dollars the company possesses nothing.

The charter, section 472, gives the city equal rights with the company in so far as that the city has power to acquire any property in any part of the State needed for the extension of its water supply. Then, too, by the State Constitution (section 10, article 8) the city may issue twenty-year bonds for water supply purposes.

The debt limitation does not apply to water bonds.

Big Capital, Little Assets. The last annual report of the Ramapo Company was filed in the office of the County Clerk on January 7.

It was stated that the capital stock of the company was \$2,500,000. The assets of the company, according to the report, are \$500,000.

Tracy, Boardman & Platt were counsel for the company two years ago. They were succeeded by Edward Lauterbach, H. C. Ingraham, of Brooklyn, is the present counsel.

The real powers behind Ramapo Water Company are said to be H. McK. Twombly, whose interests, rumor has it, are represented by Silas B. Dutcher, George F. Baker, H. C. Fahnestock, J. Rogers Maxwell, Garrett A. Hobart, J. Astor and William C. Barbour. That these gentlemen are in fact associated with the company was not verified.

It is said that \$50 a share has been offered for the stock of the company and refused. There have been no sales. Certain politicians are said to be in possession of a number of shares of the company's stock.

Bridge Commissioner Shea, who seconded Comptroller Coler in the fight in the Board room on Wednesday, said yesterday: "I think the backbone of the scheme has been broken. The city of New York should own its own water supply. The Ramapo Company has no plant. It owns nothing. It has not a pipe, nor a conduit, nor water. It proposes to work first on air."

Favors Municipal Ownership. Commissioner Henry S. Kearny, who also voted against the company's contract, said: "A full investigation should be made by the Comptroller before any action is taken. I have always been a staunch advocate of municipal ownership."

President Holahan, of the Board, who fought so vigorously for the approval of the \$200,000,000 contract, said: "I am satisfied with the way I voted. The price asked is not too much. We did not try to rush the contract through. The announcement was made in advance that the matter would come up. I will not assist Comptroller Coler in his investigation unless he asks me to co-operate with him."

George W. Birdsall, Chief Engineer of the Water Department, said yesterday that the city itself could bring water down from

the Ramapo region in five years if the money were available. The Ramapo company could not do it in less time, he thought.

Comptroller Coler, Commissioner Shea, Engineer Birdsall and Chief Engineer McLean were in consultation late yesterday. They will meet again this morning.

Borough Presidents Oppose It. President Bowley, of Queens, said yesterday that he was unalterably opposed to the Ramapo water proposition. President Cromwell, of Richmond, declared himself likewise.

Silas B. Dutcher was seen at his office in Montague street, Brooklyn, yesterday. He said: "The Ramapo Water Company has spent a lot of money in securing property and in doing the preliminary work, and we are prepared to begin construction. The company has never tried to force a contract upon the city. We have the water and can soon be in a position to deliver it. There is nothing to prevent the city from then making distribution in the usual way, and collecting the rates at a profit, as it now does."

"The city has always hesitated to take in the additional supply from Ramapo, because of the enormous cost of the necessary works."

"There is nothing to be said by me regarding the so-called rush proceedings of the Board of Public Improvements. The men in the Ramapo company are practical men and seek to deal with the subject of a better and efficient supply of water for New York in a practical way."

Read the "Want" advt. next Sunday.

COMPTROLLER COLER WILL FIGHT THE SCHEME WITH UTMOST VIGOR.

It is my intention to make a thorough investigation of this matter, and I shall employ the best engineers in the United States to probe it. I am utterly opposed to binding the city in a contract with a private company.

I am sure the majority of our citizens are also opposed to such a step. New York is fully capable of enlarging its own water supply.

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Editor New York Journal:

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The prospectus or proposal of the projectors bears upon its face evidence of insincerity, in that it employs studio phraseology which would be misleading to any one not understanding hydraulic engineering, and is intended to convey the impression that the water is to be delivered under a pressure at the New York hydrant of over one hundred pounds to the square inch. Why do these men not employ definite engineering language in stating what they propose to do, if they understand their own undertaking?

Every great city should own its own water supply, and not be dependent upon private individuals. Moreover, New York, it can be shown, already has enough water, if the harbor or river water be used, by a comparatively inexpensive pipe distribution system, for extinguishing fires, flushing sewers and sprinkling streets, for which such water would be better than reservoir or potable water.

I believe if the tax-payers fully realized what this Ramapo scheme means they would rise en masse to protest against it. Surely this great city ought not to be delivered into the power of a private corporation and forced to pay, year by year, an exorbitant rental for its water supply.

Very Respectfully,
FRANCIS C. MOORE,
President Continental Insurance Co.

New York, Aug. 17, 1899.

GRIGGS LETS SLIP A TIP ON CARTER.

Calls Attention to Lamont's Connection with the Affair.

ACTION EXPECTED SOON

The President and Attorney-General Confer About the Captain's Case.

Hotel Champlain, N. Y., Aug. 17.—It is almost a certainty that the case of Captain Obella M. Carter will be definitely acted on before the month has ended. The daily conferences now progressing between President McKinley and Attorney-General Griggs are one ground for the belief.

General Griggs arrived here yesterday. He said to-night he had come for rest and recreation, but some affairs of his office would still occupy his attention. One of these affairs certainly is the Carter case.

"There is no more right," said he, "to question me on this matter than there is to ask a Justice of the Supreme Court for information concerning the character of an important decision. I will not talk about it further than to say that the public shall know the result when it is proper. I can say," he added, "that the Carter case now has my attention. Otherwise, I can tell you nothing."

The fact that the Van Wyck boomers had subscribed to the publication of 500,000 copies of pamphlets concerning Captain Carter's record was mentioned to General Griggs. "They have done this, General, in an endeavor to point out the corruption of the McKinley administration," the Attorney-General laughed.

"That is farcical," said he, instantly. "Don't they understand that the contracts involved in the case were given out by Secretary Lamont, during a Democratic administration?"

It appears from this that one result of the decision now being discussed will be to drag the last Democratic administration into the now notorious scandal. The General was asked whether he would not indicate how soon the decision would be reached. In answer he said: "Please ask me no more questions concerning this. I cannot tell you. I can assure you, though, when a decision is made, it will be given to the entire press of the country."

The conferences between General Griggs and the President have been numerous, though the General has been here only twenty-four hours. Their exact result is a matter of speculation. Governor Griggs's remark about the giving of the contracts by Lamont came swiftly, without apparent thought. For a man as careful about committing himself as is General Griggs, who is an astute lawyer, diplomatic and thoughtful, to make such a remark, gives it significance.

High officials in the Government have said there is politics in the Carter case, and there are many who think that when the administration is forced to decide upon the affair will be traced to political account. By answering the demands of the nation for justice in the Carter case, one effect would be gained. By laying the blame for it on a Democratic administration another effect would develop.

Attorney-General Griggs expects to remain here until September 1.

TRAMP ON BRIDGE TOWER BOMBARDS TROLLEY CARS.

Arrested, He Says He Lives "at the Waldorf-Astoria or Hoffman House, Take Your Choice."

Perched on top of the bridge tower nearest the Manhattan end William Magner, a tramp, amused himself by dropping stones on top of the trolley cars, into wagons and on to the heads of the foot passengers.

There was nothing malicious about the sport, as the stones thrown were not large enough to do any damage. For a long time no one discovered whence came the missiles.

Shortly before noon Patrolman Courtney, standing at the center of the bridge, saw the man and shouted to him to come down, but the latter backed out of sight to the top of the stonework. The policeman went up and got him.

He was asked to go to the Adams Street Court and sent to jail for five days for malicious mischief. He gave his address as the Waldorf-Astoria or the Hoffman House, and told the police to take their choice.

Famous Cottage Saved from Fire. Long Branch, N. J., Aug. 17.—Were it not for the alertness of guests of the Elberon Hotel the famous cottage in which President Garfield died might have been a mass of ashes today. Shortly after midnight four men sitting on the Elberon porch noticed a small tongue of flame shoot out of a second-story window.

They rushed across the lawn, awoke the occupants of the house, the James Barham family, and the fire was soon extinguished. The wind had blown a lace curtain in contact with lighted gas.

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HETTY GREEN TO TAKE A VACATION.



She Sends for Her Son to Look After Her Millions for Awhile.

HIS SUCCESS IN TEXAS.

Stalwart Youth Could Run for Governor, but His Mother Objects.

LAST night there was noticed among the men who thronged the corridors of the Waldorf-Astoria a figure that towered above all the rest. It was that of a young man, 6 feet 4 inches, and weighing something like 250 pounds.

The man was Edward H. R. Green, president of an important Texas railroad, chairman of the Texas Republican Executive Committee, president of the famous Tarpon Club, which has almost as many millionaire members as the Union League Club, and a director in a dozen or more Texas banks.

He is also the only son of Mrs. Hetty Green, the richest woman in the world, which is a very important matter, just at this time.

Age and hard work are beginning to tell on Mr. Green's rich mother, and she will do something that is not usual for her, that is, take a rest, and during her vacation her Texas son will conduct the business which has rarely been entrusted to any one else.

What He Is Facing. She is now giving him the finishing touches of a business education commenced ten years ago, so that he will be thoroughly equipped to handle the vast interests which she will soon confide to him, an estate which at a fair valuation approximates the respectable figure of \$90,000,000, and which is now increasing at the rate of several millions a year.

Mrs. Green had in Texas a "couple of streaks of rust on a right of way" that ran from Garrett to Roberts, a distance of some sixty-five miles. The road was a scrap of the old Houston & Texas Central system, which was "shed after the receivership as worthless, as it went from nowhere to nowhere. Her son took charge of this in 1892.

To-day that road is twice as long as it was when he took hold, and it is said by those who are familiar with the facts that it is not only the finest piece of road in the country, but one of the best equipped in the United States. Its terminals are in Ennis and Paris, two of the most prosperous towns of the State, and its equipment is the best to be seen on the Pennsylvania or New York Central.

Young Green has opened up rich territory, founded thriving towns, equipped them with banks, electric lights, water works, &c. The people who live along his line think he is the biggest man in the country. He has never had a strike, he knows all of his employees personally and he sees to it that none of them suffer if misfortune happens to come along.

His Success in Politics. In 1898 Green became interested in politics. At the State convention he was chosen chairman of the Executive Committee, and commenced to organize the State just as if Texas hadn't always piled up a six-figure Democratic majority. His ambition was to carry Texas in 1900.

Well, he didn't do it. He accomplished wonders, however. Up to that year the banner Republican vote of the State was that cast for Blaine in 1884, 90,000. In 1892 this had dropped to less than 80,000. By organizing every county in the State and lifting the standard of Republican politics out of the mire he managed to get out for McKinley nearly 170,000 votes, an increase of over 100 per cent within four years, and the largest vote McKinley got in any Southern State excepting the border States of Kentucky and Missouri.

Green was re-elected chairman two years ago, and is now slated for the National Committee from Texas. His party friends have been anxious for him to stand for the Governorship, but he has refrained from going into politics so deep, owing to the opposition of his mother.

LIBERTY WITHOUT HIS BROTHER HAS NO CHARM.

Rejected His Acquittal When His Playmate Was Convicted, So Both Were Sentenced.

Stamford, Conn., Aug. 17.—Dan Storms refused to allow Judge Davis to send his brother Joe to the State Reformatory School alone yesterday, and asked to be allowed to change his plea of not guilty to guilty.

"What shall I do about it?" asked the Judge of Arthur Storms, the boys' father. "Oh, you might as well send them both along. I've no doubt they're both guilty," said the father.

Judge Davis sentenced both the lads to the State Reformatory at Meriden for the remainder of their minority.

Dan is fifteen. Joe thirteen years old. They had been charged with the theft of \$50 from the till of a Stamford store. Joe swore that he alone was guilty, and that Dan knew nothing about the theft. Judge Davis had ordered Dan's discharge when he boy declined to go unless his brother was freed also.

MYSTERY SHROUDS SHAW'S MOVEMENTS.

His Whereabouts Just Before Murder Still Unknown.

A CLEW FROM NEWARK.

Left Bachelor Rooms, His Landlady Thinking He Intended to Wed.

The mystery surrounding the murder of Frank H. Shaw is still almost as impenetrable as on the morning his body was found at Scarborough Beach, and yesterday brought no development of his whereabouts since he was last seen by Joseph Albert Merrick, near a saloon called "The Bank," on the northeast corner of Thirty-ninth street and Third avenue, Brooklyn. One of the old theories was renewed yesterday when it was said that a naphtha launch had put in at Fifty-fifth street, Brooklyn, on Tuesday, boarded by a man who bought provisions at the store of C. Hartman.

Mr. Hartman said last night that he re-



Edward Howland Robinson Green.

Mrs. Green and Her Son. Feeling the need of a little rest, she sends for her son, who will look after her vast interests while she takes a rest.

FARMER THAT BROWNELL ROBBED TAKES HIM BACK.

Doctors Certify That the Young Man Is Not Right Mentally, and He Is Discharged.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Aug. 17.—Willie Brownell, the young man from Elizabeth, N. J., who has been in jail here nearly a week for stealing a horse from Farmer Tenny, of Lithgow, Dutchess County, was discharged from custody by County Judge Phillips to-day. Drs. Powell and Courtney testified that the young man was not mentally right.

An odd denouement was given the case by the farmer, who asked young Brownell to go back to live with him, saying that he would like to help the young man to rid himself of his affliction. At this Brownell cried and said:

"But suppose I should get another of those spells and steal your horse again? I assure you I cannot help myself when I am in that condition."

"I am willing to take the chances," answered the farmer, and he started home with his new charge.

BIG WINE MAKER ARRESTED.

St. Louis, Aug. 17.—George C. Starck, president of the Stone Hill Wine Co., of Herman, Mo., one of the largest wine makers east of California, has been arrested on a charge of making and disposing of brandy on which the revenue tax had not been paid.

The distillery, wine cellars and plant, valued at \$250,000, were seized by the Internal Revenue Department.

Leaped or Fell to Her Death. Mrs. E. Kane, thirty-six years of age, the wife of Dr. Charles R. Kane, a junior judge, fell from the roof of the tall flat house at No. 12 West One Hundred and Fourth street yesterday and received injuries which caused her death at the J. Hood Wright Hospital a few hours afterward. All the circumstances point to the woman's having leaped from the roof, though there was an apparent absence of any motive for the act.

I notice a story about a man who called to see Shaw a few days before his resignation. That man, I have learned, only called on Shaw to ask his aid in getting a position.

"Shaw never flirted, although while at Coney Island he had many opportunities. It was peculiarly serious gray hair. He was a fine swimmer and somewhat of a yachtsman."

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